

Two Trillion 691

Chapter 691 I Will Be Indulgent to the End_1

Lu Guangxin was dumbfounded. Bai Xiaosheng had actually torn up Chen Jiuzheng's invitation right in front of everyone!

The reason was, the person delivering the invitation was not qualified enough.

What kind of reason was that!

It wasn't just Lu Guangxin who was dumbfounded; even Lin Weiwei, Song Yiming, and Lei Ying were taken aback.

The employees at the doorway were gaping, watching in disbelief.

They realized it was an invitation from a big shot within the group, yet Mr. Bai wouldn't even give that a bit of respect!

"So domineering!" A fervent glow rose in the employees' eyes.

Bai Xiaosheng's overbearing attitude exhilarated them.

What they witnessed today would also become their unique topic of conversation.

"You actually, you..." Lu Guangxin finally reacted, pointing aghast at Bai Xiaosheng and then at the invitation in the waste basket, unable to utter another word.

Was such arrogance even needed to be embellished by him upon his return!

Just by telling the story as it was, the family head would surely be furiously thunderous!

It was a blatant slap in Mr. Jiuzheng's face!

"You go back and tell your supervisor, if I'm not satisfied with the way the invitation is delivered, I might not be able to attend," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, "Also, you can relay exactly what I say to Mr. Jiuzheng, tell him I'm very busy preparing for the final training assessment. Right now, I'm in the lead, and with the time it takes to eat, I could be clinching the final victory!"

Lu Guangxin's face turned ugly, he glanced at Lei Ying, not daring to cause a scene, and just clenched his teeth, "Fine, I'll remember that!"

Bai Xiaosheng waved his hand as if shooing a mosquito.

"I'll take my leave!" Lu Guangxin did know his place.

The employees at the doorway made way for him, watching him depart in an awkward rush.

Everyone wore a look of satisfaction.

"Alright, stop crowding at the door like it's a spectacle, it's almost time to knock off. Do you all want to stick around for overtime pay!" Bai Xiaosheng scolded humorously.

The assistants and secretaries giggled and dispersed.

"You all should head back as well, leave work early," Bai Xiaosheng said to Lin Weiwei, Song Yiming, and Lei Ying with a smile.

Lei Ying and Song Yiming nodded with a smile and turned to leave.

But Lin Weiwei stayed behind.

"Weiwei, is something the matter?" Bai Xiaosheng asked with a smile.

Lin Weiwei closed the office door, looking somewhat worried, "Sheng, you just tore up Chen Jiuzheng's invitation, do you really intend not to go?"

"I do want to have a look, especially at Jiuzheng's mansion; I'm even more curious about it!"

He shared his true thoughts with her.

"But you tore it up..."

"The more arrogant and proud I appear, the more reassured they'll be," Bai Xiaosheng laughed.

"Wouldn't the Chen family become so angry that they refuse to invite you?" Lin Weiwei asked again.

"Don't worry, they won't," Bai Xiaosheng looked in a certain direction, his eyes carrying an indescribable smile, "The message I had that Lu Guangxin relay should be quite effective! At the very least, someone will advise them to invite me!"

Bai Xiaosheng's words were laden with meaning.

Lin Weiwei trusted his judgment.

"Oh, by the way, Xiaosheng, are you really number one in that training class? Just as I thought, you are amazing!" Lin Weiwei congratulated him with a smile.

She wasn't overly surprised; in her opinion, first place had to be Bai Xiaosheng's!

Bai Xiaosheng also smiled at Lin Weiwei's unwarranted trust.

"Alright, it's getting late, finish up your work and head home!"

"Okay!" Lin Weiwei replied sweetly, smiling before she turned to leave.

Since Bai Xiaosheng's reforms, Zhongjing Media was now fully promoting a "good practice" of clocking in on time without arriving early and leaving promptly without delay.

Of course, such behavior is deeply abhorred and regarded as a "bad habit" by leaders in other companies.

Bai Xiaosheng packed up his things and left work humming a little tune.

At this moment, Lu Guangxin was in a rush heading to the Chen Family's residence.

He was eager to report to the chief butler the humiliation he had suffered at Zhongjing Media "exactly" as it happened, hoping the chief butler would relay it to Chen Jiuzheng.

"Mr. Bai, you're something else, you really are something, daring to tear up Mr. Chen's invitation, daring to shame me in public, I'll make sure you regret it!" Lu Guangxin wore a sinister smile on his face.

Upon arriving at the Chen Family's place and learning that the chief butler had returned, Lu Guangxin hurried over.

Chen Hao, the Chen Family's chief butler, was sitting on the couch taking a rest and drinking tea.

He had had a smooth time of it; when Zheng Qinghong learned it was Chen Jiuzheng's invitation and also heard Chen Jiutian would be attending, he readily agreed and even invited him for a coffee and a chat.

Presently, Chen Hao had only taken a couple of sips from his cup of tea when he looked up to see Lu Guangxin storm in, looking indignantly as if he had suffered a great injustice.

"Guangxin, what happened to you?" Chen Hao asked with furrowed brows as he set down his teacup.

Lu Guangxin was the one who delivered the message; surely, nothing had gone awry!

A sudden pang of anxiety struck Chen Hao's heart.

Chen Jiuzheng had given explicit instructions that Mr. Bai had to be secured.

"Chief, don't even mention it! That Mr. Bai, he's simply unbearable! He actually, he actually tore up Mr. Chen's invitation!" Lu Guangxin exclaimed with a face full of grief as if he had suffered the greatest of wrongs.

"What did you say!" Chen Hao exclaimed, rising to his feet abruptly, tea spilling on him without him even noticing, his eyes showing his shock.

The invitation was torn up!

"Tell me, what exactly happened!" Chen Hao urged.

Lu Guangxin, seeing his reaction, sneered inside, and then proceeded to exaggerate how Bai Xiaosheng slighted him, humiliated him, and how the invitation was torn up.

"Tell me, was I wrong to let him personally receive the invitation! This Mr. Bai, does he even consider Mr. Chen! It's sheer arrogance, utterly insolent!" Lu Guangxin yelled angrily.

After speaking, Lu Guangxin added impatiently, "We must report this to Mr. Chen!"

Chen Hao gave him a deep look, internally cursing Lu Guangxin for being a foolish pig. He had swaggered off without clear understanding.

Mr. Bai wasn't someone his caliber could afford to provoke!

This matter did have to be reported; if it was messed up, Mr. Chen would surely be furious, and someone would need to take the blame...

"Here's what we'll do - I will take you there, and you can report it to Mr. Chen in person," Chen Hao said, not letting any emotion show.

"Good, good!" Lu Guangxin was naturally pleased, fearing that Chen Hao might not make it seem serious enough, or paint the picture vividly enough.

Soon after, Chen Hao took Lu Guangxin to Chen Jiuzheng's study.

More than ten minutes later.

The servants outside heard the voice of their master thundering in rage from inside the study, accompanied by the sharp sound of slaps.

Then, they saw Lu Guangxin tumble and scramble out as he fled.

"It's infuriating, completely out of his depth!" Chen Jiuzheng cursed.

The invitation to Bai Xiaosheng was meant to lessen his hostility towards them, to lull him into complacency.

Now, instead, Bai Xiaosheng's adverse feeling intensified!

"Chen Hao, you personally call Mr. Bai and invite him," Chen Jiuzheng ordered.

"Yes."

Chen Hao nodded in agreement, though he was also somewhat reluctant.

Perhaps before extending the invitation, an apology was in order.

Five minutes later.

Chen Hao made a call to Bai Xiaosheng.

Lying in bed, Bai Xiaosheng heard Chen Hao's apology and laughed, "I'll accept this apology, but for a butler to invite me... I've said it before, you're not qualified enough!"

Bai Xiaosheng then hung up the phone, tossed it aside, and said with a laugh, "Since they are so arrogant, let me be unapologetically arrogant to the end!"

Chapter 692 "Three Visits to the Cottage" Invitation to a Banquet_1

Before bed, the head butler of the Chen Family, Chen Hao, made yet another call to Bai Xiaosheng.

On the phone, Chen Hao spoke in a low voice, apologizing profusely and extending an earnest invitation.

The head butler really went all out with his sincerity.

Unfortunately, he underestimated just how thick-skinned Bai Xiaosheng was.

"It's not that I'm making it difficult for you, but it was your Chen Family assistant butler who said in person that I'm not high-ranking enough, so I shouldn't interfere with this matter," Bai Xiaosheng said over the phone, his voice amicable but his attitude unwavering.

"What rank do you think would be sufficient?" Chen Hao asked helplessly on the phone.

Could it be that Mr. Bai actually wants Mr. Jiuzheng himself to extend the invitation?

No one in the entire training class has had such an honor!

After all, they're all just general managers, nowhere close to the real provincial industry heads.

"If you don't know what rank is sufficient, then let's discuss my rank."

Bai Xiaosheng had nothing better to do lying in bed, so he started bantering with Chen Hao.

"Currently, even though I'm just a general manager, I am the general manager of a direct subsidiary in the Greater China Region, which is one notch higher in status than an ordinary general manager, right?"

"Right."

"Right now, I'm participating in the selection for the provincial industry heads of the Greater China Region, which puts me one notch above those general managers of direct subsidiaries who aren't participating in the selection, right?"

"Right..."

"And besides, in the first phase of the assessment period, I ranked first, outshining the others. That should count for an additional notch, right?"

"...Right."

...

Bai Xiaosheng shamelessly kept giving himself extra points.

Chen Hao on the other end, of course, couldn't argue back and had no choice but to go along with the conversation, repeating "right" several times.

Riding the momentum, Bai Xiaosheng laughed and said, "So by that calculation, with all these extra points, wouldn't I qualify as half a step away from being a provincial industry head? Doesn't that almost place me on the same level as Mr. Jiuzheng? Shouldn't Mr. Jiuzheng personally invite me then?"

Bai Xiaosheng's "extremely logical" argument left Chen Hao completely at a loss for words.

"Alright, you all think about whether or not you really want me to participate. If you do, show some sincerity."

Bai Xiaosheng said, "Also, I'm going to sleep now, so please don't call me again. I wish you a good night too."

With that, Bai Xiaosheng hung up.

But he didn't hurry to put the phone aside, instead, he looked at it contemplatively and chuckled to himself, "On the other end of the call, it must have been on speaker. I could even hear Mr. Jiuzheng breathing heavily with rage, impressive that he could hold on!"

"Also, I wonder if Mu Beichen was there. Old Mu, he's probably advising him."

With a smile, Bai Xiaosheng then tossed his phone and went to sleep peacefully.

He was asleep.

But in the Chen Family study, there was a tension thick as thunder, almost as if Bai Xiaosheng's last word could have set it off.

Chen Hao felt incredibly uncomfortable; after pocketing his phone, he anxiously looked at Chen Jiuzheng.

Chen Jiuzheng's expression was somewhat fierce, while Mu Beichen also looked somewhat displeased.

"Go on, get out," Mu Beichen finally spoke up, addressing Chen Hao.

Chen Hao, like a man pardoned, quickly left and carefully closed the door to the study.

Inside the study.

Chen Jiuzheng slammed the desk, furious, "Who does he think he is, demanding I invite him? Let him be, if he doesn't want the courtesy!"

Mu Beichen remained silent, letting Chen Jiuzheng vent before leisurely saying, "Indeed, he's arrogant!"

"But," Mu Beichen continued, "dealing with an audacious Bai Xiaosheng is easier than dealing with a cautious one who never lets his emotions show!"

"So what are you suggesting, that we must invite him?" Chen Jiuzheng asked.

"This defeated subordinate of yours managed to win three unlikely battles in the training session; I suspect that besides luck, there's some trickery involved!" Mu Beichen said, "Therefore, the more chances we have to interact with him and probe, the better. Also, don't forget, we invite him to lull him into a false sense of security, to lower his guard, making it easier for us to act in the future!"

"So, Mr. Jiuzheng, you have to endure!" Mu Beichen concluded.

These words left Chen Jiuzheng speechless.

"I'll endure! But I can't possibly be the one to invite him. Tomorrow, I'll send Changqing! That should be showing him enough respect," Chen Jiuzheng huffed.

"Let's take it one step at a time," Mu Beichen said noncommittally.

That evening, Chen Changqing received a call from his uncle.

As a result, Mr. Chen didn't sleep all night, worrying until his hair turned white.

The next day, Bai Xiaosheng arrived at the office early, full of energy.

Lin Weiwei, as usual, had prepared breakfast for him.

A small bowl of clear and fragrant chicken broth with Korean noodles, three meat dumplings, three vegetarian dumplings, and a tea egg.

It was just the right amount and nutritionally rich.

Bai Xiaosheng was enjoying his breakfast when the office door was knocked. After he said come in, Chen Changqing walked in.

"Mr. Bai, I need to discuss something with you."

Mr. Chen, the deputy, had a smile on his face that was warmer than usual.

"Have you eaten, Mr. Chen?" Bai Xiaosheng asked.

"I have."

"Then sit for a while, let me finish my breakfast, and then we'll talk," Bai Xiaosheng said.

Chen Changqing had no choice but to wait on the sofa, watching Bai Xiaosheng eat slowly, chewing each bite meticulously.

Chen Changqing hadn't had breakfast. He had come early to "block" Bai Xiaosheng to ensure he wouldn't be unavailable later, which would make it difficult to report back to his uncle if things weren't handled.

Irritatingly, Bai Xiaosheng ate so leisurely and deliciously that it made Chen Changqing unconsciously swallow saliva and his stomach rumble softly.

Chen Changqing felt somewhat embarrassed, but fortunately, Bai Xiaosheng didn't seem to have heard.

However, Bai Xiaosheng ate even more slowly.

Finally, Bai Xiaosheng finished eating, picked up a wet wipe, cleaned his mouth and hands meticulously, and then rinsed his mouth.

"What did you want to discuss with me, Mr. Chen?" Bai Xiaosheng dawdled for a while before coming over and smiling at Chen Changqing.

"Mr. Bai, my uncle is very sincere in inviting you to a banquet. Would you be willing to attend?" Chen Changqing said.

"Oh, so Mr. Jiuzheng sent you to invite me."

Bai Xiaosheng nodded and smiled kindly at Chen Changqing.

"In what capacity are you extending this invitation to me? Is it business or personal?"

This...

Although Bai Xiaosheng was smiling, Chen Changqing became wary.

"For a private gathering, I am asking in a personal capacity," Chen Changqing said hesitantly.

"Oh? Then I'm sorry, I only have a nodding acquaintance with Mr. Chen and have only met Mr. Jiuzheng a few times. I don't dare to presume," Bai Xiaosheng declined.

"But... we're both from Zhenbei Group, so we're not strangers. Can I ask you to come on behalf of the 'business,'" Chen Changqing said.

The banquet wasn't a business occasion; to ask on behalf of "business" was extremely awkward. Chen Changqing had no choice but to push on.

"On behalf of 'business'? Isn't eating and drinking against the company's rules?"

As expected, Bai Xiaosheng, who was difficult to please, left Chen Changqing at a loss for words.

But then he changed tack, "From that angle, I am not completely averse to the idea."

Chen Changqing saw a glimmer of hope and was delighted.

Inviting Bai Xiaosheng was nearly akin to the "Three Visits to the Cottage"—he had to beg!

"However, I've also said that the person asking should be the head of a provincial industrial sector. Are you?" Bai Xiaosheng looked at Chen Changqing, "If not, then please leave!"

Chapter 693: If You Invite Me, I'll Definitely Go_1

Chen Changqing came out of Bai Xiaosheng's office with an ugly look on his face.

He had watched someone else enjoy a breakfast feast and ended up returning empty-handed.

"I knew it, I definitely couldn't persuade that bastard Bai Xiaosheng. Uncle, you overestimated me!" Chen Changqing glanced at the door of Bai Xiaosheng's office, gave a bitter smile, and returned to his own office.

Once in his office, he called Chen Jiuzheng and reported the situation.

Chen Jiuzheng cursed him out over the phone.

But after hanging up, Chen Changqing let out a sigh of relief.

At the very least, the hot potato was no longer his to hold.

In the Chen Family study,

Chen Jiuzheng was so angry that he smashed the teacup in his hand to pieces.

"Forget it! I won't ask him anymore! This shameless jerk, he thinks so highly of himself, let him not come!"

Chen Jiuzheng was raging like thunder, while Chen Jiutian and Mu Beichen were sitting opposite him drinking tea, one with a furrowed brow and the other with an equally unpleasant expression.

However, compared to Chen Jiuzheng, they were still able to keep their cool.

After Chen Jiuzheng had vented his anger, Mu Beichen slowly said, "Having this Mr. Bai come is to our benefit, and I have made my reasons crystal clear. If it's difficult for you, Brother Jiuzheng, then we don't have to invite him!"

With that said, Chen Jiuzheng exhaled a heavy breath and found himself without a response.

"A lion doesn't bother to fight with a mouse. Why are you getting angry with him from a distance!"

Chen Jiutian set down his teacup, "Second brother, you didn't rise to the position of Regional Industry Head overnight, your patience is still not enough! To give in to him now is to trap him for a lifetime! Isn't that a good thing?"

Now that even Chen Jiutian had spoken, Chen Jiuzheng was completely at a loss for words.

After a long moment, Chen Jiuzheng gritted his teeth.

"Fine, I'll call him personally. I'll invite him! Happy now?"

"Since you're making this call, you cannot sound aggressive," Mu Beichen advised.

"Your attitude must not be too tough, can't let him sense your hatred," Chen Jiutian added.

"What, so I make the call, personally invite him, and I still have to play the grandson?"

Chen Jiuzheng was exasperated, his words filled with sorrow and grievance.

...

Bai Xiaosheng sat behind his office desk, flipping through documents with casual indifference.

After Chen Changqing had left, he had been waiting; he believed that before long, there would be news from the other side.

"If Chen Jiuzheng really can't swallow his pride, or if Mu Beichen hasn't swayed him, then so be it. It's not like I have to go," Bai Xiaosheng was unconcerned.

Just as this thought surfaced, his cellphone rang.

"Here it comes," Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

Sensing it, he believed this was a call from Chen Jiuzheng, who had conceded.

True enough.

After answering the phone, Chen Jiuzheng's voice came through.

"Is this Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, Mr. Bai, I am Chen Jiuzheng speaking."

Chen Jiuzheng's voice sounded perfectly reasonable, like that of a mild-tempered person.

Not bad for composure, Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

He had no idea that before making the call, Chen Jiuzheng had especially gone to the gym, put on boxing gloves, and ferociously pummeled a rubber dummy for ten minutes.

On the dummy's head was a label with Bai Xiaosheng's name on it.

"Mr. Chen, what is it that you need?" Bai Xiaosheng asked with a smile, knowingly playing dumb.

"It's like this, I'm organizing a banquet, and I believe you've already heard about it. The invitees are the general managers participating in the selection for industry leaders of the Greater China Region this time. Since it's a rare chance for us to gather together in Anjiang, in Zhongjing, I thought I'd play host and offer the local hospitality. It's an opportunity for us to get together and exchange ideas. I don't know if you have the time," Chen Jiuzheng spoke with a chuckle over the phone.

"If you're inviting me, I'll definitely come."

Bai Xiaosheng said cheerfully, "Could you please send someone to deliver an invitation to me? No need for you to come in person, any housekeeper or the likes will do."

As soon as Bai Xiaosheng uttered the word "anyone," he heard a faint sound of friction.

It sounded like someone grinding their teeth.

"Heh heh, sure, then I'll have my housekeeper deliver it to you!" Chen Jiuzheng's voice sounded a bit forced, "Alright, I have other matters to attend to and won't bother you any longer. We'll chat more at the event!"

"Sure, I'll definitely attend," Bai Xiaosheng said with a laugh.

The call was quickly ended.

Bai Xiaosheng chuckled softly.

He believed that on the other end, Chen Jiuzheng must be quite upset.

"Can't blame me, it's your own narrow-mindedness, getting upset over such a trivial matter," Bai Xiaosheng shrugged and muttered to himself.

It might not be a big deal, but it was enough to irk someone.

On the other end, Chen Jiuzheng put down the phone and headed straight for the gym, declaring that he shouldn't be disturbed until after noon.

As noon approached, Lin Weiwei led Chen Mansion's chief housekeeper, Chen Hao, into Bai Xiaosheng's office.

"Mr. Bai, here is your invitation, please keep it safe." Chen Hao was extremely respectful, presenting the invitation with both hands to Bai Xiaosheng. He only let out a sigh of relief after seeing him accept it.

Chen Hao also hoped that nothing would go wrong this time.

"By the way, Mr. Chen asked me to tell you that Lu Guangxin is indeed a black sheep who has tarnished Mr. Chen's reputation. Therefore, Mr. Chen has dismissed him and ordered him to leave Zhongjing," Chen Hao said, "Mr. Chen appreciates your approach in dealing with Lu Guangxin."

Bai Xiaosheng was momentarily stunned, then he smiled and nodded.

It's doubtful that this was Chen Jiuzheng's own doing.

Still, it was good riddance to someone like Lu Guangxin; he'd save the group's subsidiaries from potential harm.

"Alright, I got it, thank you for making the trip," Bai Xiaosheng said to Chen Hao with a smile.

"It's no trouble, just my duty, Mr. Bai. Now, if you'll excuse me," Chen Hao politely excused himself and left.

Lin Weiwei escorted him to the door, then turned back with a smile, "Xiaosheng, you really have a way with things, just as you expected, they backed down."

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and briefly looked at the invitation before setting it aside.

The day of the banquet was tomorrow, starting at four in the afternoon and lasting until nine in the evening, a total of five hours.

It wasn't just food and drink, but other activities too, essentially a social gathering.

"Moon Lake Villa District, huh? I've heard that it's where the wealthiest people in Zhongjing live; I'm looking forward to having a good look around," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

"No matter how big the house, you still only sleep in a three-foot bed. No matter how much gourmet food there is, you still only eat three meals a day," Lin Weiwei remarked nonchalantly.

"Not everyone can be as detached as you are," Bai Xiaosheng smiled back at her, his gaze drifting away, "Some people, even if they sit on mountains of gold and silver, still feel it's not enough. They spend their days wanting more and more, even at the risk of breaking the law!"

The Chen Brothers were just like that!

Bai Xiaosheng's gaze darkened; he really wanted to have a good look in the "enemy camp."

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng lost in thought, Lin Weiwei did not disturb him. She tiptoed out of the office to attend to her own affairs.

The day passed without incident, all quiet.

The next morning, Bai Xiaosheng arrived at the company to take care of some business and went home at midday to get ready.

Feng drove to pick him up from his place and headed straight for the Moon Lake Villa District in Zhongjing.

On the way, Bai Xiaosheng was truly looking forward to the banquet.

"If it's not lively enough, I'll liven things up for them!"

Chapter 694 - Mega-Scale Gathering_1

Moon Lake Villa District in Zhongjing is famously prestigious.

Feng had visited before and was very familiar with the route.

On the way over, Feng also told Bai Xiaosheng all about Moon Lake Villa District.

"At Moon Lake Villa District, not to mention anything else, just the property management staff amounts to over a thousand people! Those responsible for security, for sanitation, for the woods and flowers, for

fish farming... Listen to this, isn't it extravagant? It's a gathering place for the wealthy, so it's not an exaggeration at all! A long time ago, I even considered applying for a job there, the pay was great, but of course, it's nothing compared to our company now!"

Having been out with Bai Xiaosheng many times, Feng understood his temperament and spoke freely during their chats.

Hearing Feng talk like this, Bai Xiaosheng also became more interested and kept asking questions, which Feng could mostly answer.

Unknowingly, they were approaching their destination.

The closer they got to the Moon Lake Villa District, the more beautiful the scenery outside the window became.

Bai Xiaosheng looked out the car window.

The path was lush and scenic, feeling akin to traveling to a 5A-rated tourist area.

"These rich people really know how to enjoy life!" Bai Xiaosheng exclaimed.

"Actually, I think you should buy a place here too. With your status, living here would be more fitting," Feng suggested with a smile.

Bai Xiaosheng just smiled and said nothing, thinking that the house prices here must be sky-high.

With that money, he would rather invest in Zhengdong Province or give it to Ron and others.

"Enjoying life now is a bit premature," Bai Xiaosheng mumbled to himself.

As he spoke, the car slowed down.

"My goodness, why are there so many cars today?" Feng exclaimed in surprise.

Bai Xiaosheng peered through the gap between the seats to look ahead.

A long line of vehicles moved forward slowly.

"Is it always this busy with visitors here?" Bai Xiaosheng asked curiously.

Even if Chen Jiuzheng were hosting a banquet and inviting the thirty people from the selection, that would be just thirty cars, and it was unlikely that everyone would arrive at the same time.

"I don't know either, it's been a long time since I last came here," Feng was also unclear about the situation.

Bai Xiaosheng rolled down the window to get a better look and was surprised to see two minivans slowly driving out of the community.

The congestion up ahead was obviously related to them.

"Minivans? They didn't really turn this place into a tourist area, did they?" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but murmur.

After the minivans exited, the speed of the traffic noticeably picked up.

Upon reaching the entrance, a security guard came up to inquire, and Bai Xiaosheng took out a golden invitation.

This was not only an invitation but also served as proof of entry. With this, the security guard would let him through.

"You are here for Mr. Chen's banquet as well, then please proceed inside, follow the signs to park your car in the parking lot, where a shuttle will drive you to Mr. Chen's villa," the courteous security guard informed diligently.

"From what you're saying, a lot of people have come?" Bai Xiaosheng asked.

"All these cars are here for it, not just these, even the minivans that just left came to drop off guests," the guard added, "The guests are not only from Zhongjing but also from other cities in Anjiang Province and even neighboring provinces."

After that, the guard signaled Feng to move forward.

"So this time, the Chen Family has really put on such a big event!" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but be amazed.

He had thought it was really just the thirty people participating in the selection.

"It must be the general managers from various regional subsidiaries!" Bai Xiaosheng guessed.

And he was right.

Guests from distant regions naturally couldn't stay at Chen Jiuzheng's home when attending the banquet, so they settled in Zhongjing and were collectively transported here by the two light vans.

Of course, many people also came in their own cars.

Feng drove in without needing to look for signs; simply following the car ahead was enough to navigate inward.

Moon Lake Villa District boasts a specially designated large parking lot. The Chen Family had arranged ample parking spaces in advance.

Under the guidance of a marshal, Feng parked the car.

As soon as Bai Xiaosheng stepped out of the car, people smilingly approached him to confirm his identity and then invited him to wait on a six-seater electric golf cart, which would depart once full.

Feng was guided to another cart as well.

Shortly after, the golf cart carrying Bai Xiaosheng filled up with passengers and slowly started moving deeper into the villa district.

Riding in such a comfortable little vehicle through the scenic villa district was indeed a unique pleasure.

Bai Xiaosheng felt rather comfortable, too.

Along the way, many such carts came and went, all heading in the same direction—likely all guests of the Chen Family.

"Today is really lively," Bai Xiaosheng murmured to himself.

A two-hundred-person banquet wasn't uncommon, but what was impressive was that so many of the guests were executives and second-in-command at companies from various regions.

These individuals all carried titles like "general manager" or similar. Although many were strangers to each other, once congregated, they easily engaged in conversation, eagerly exchanging business cards and networking effortlessly.

In the golf cart Bai Xiaosheng was on, a few people had also begun swapping business cards, smiling and greeting each other.

If not a general manager of one company, then of another—with some even holding senior positions at two companies.

Bai Xiaosheng received four business cards in rapid succession, but each time, he responded with an apologetic smile, saying sorry for not having brought his own cards.

In reality, ever since Bai Xiaosheng had been promoted to general manager, he had made a box of business cards, which he tossed into a corner to collect dust.

He never gave them out to anyone and rarely attended gatherings; Lin Weiwei's aunt's home counted as one, the Zhang Family as another. However, wherever he went, he tended to leave chaos in his wake—a real mess.

Even Bai Xiaosheng had mocked himself as a "banquet killer."

When introducing himself, he didn't mention that he was a general manager of any company, simply stating he was local to Zhongjing. After all, others wouldn't press for details.

On the cart, seeing that he had no cards, others showed little interest in further exchange and tactfully turned to talk to someone else.

However, the person sitting beside Bai Xiaosheng kept staring at him curiously.

This man, who looked to be in his mid-thirties with gold-rimmed glasses and a constant smile on his face, seemed somewhat amiable.

"I've met so many people today, but you are the only one who stands out, coming to such a grand banquet without business cards. I, Zhang Yao, am truly impressed just by this," said the man named Zhang Yao, smiling at Bai Xiaosheng.

"Maybe I'm just naturally not good at socializing," Bai Xiaosheng replied with a shrug and a smile.

To him, it wasn't worth expending energy on such matters.

Before he got the chance to befriend these people, they would all become his subordinates.

Therefore, for Bai Xiaosheng, when making acquaintances, he never regarded the person's position.

Because none of the people he currently met had a higher rank than him...

"Not being good at socializing and still having the credentials to attend such a gathering, I have to get to know you better. You're Bai Xiaosheng, right?" Zhang Yao extended his hand and shook hands with Bai Xiaosheng.

With someone taking the initiative to chat, Bai Xiaosheng was not averse.

Moreover, he realized that this guy had a very impressive trait—he knew a lot of people, practically a human identity recognizer!

After talking with him for a while, Bai Xiaosheng found they got along well.

As the two of them were conversing, the driver at the front called out.

"Gentlemen, we have arrived!"

Chapter 695 Chen Changluo_1

Bai Xiaosheng, Zhang Yao, and others got off the car, looked around, and saw the villa was a hundred meters away.

This place could at most be considered a courtyard, with blue stone paving underfoot wide enough for a car, and beautifully trimmed shrubs on both sides of the road, surrounding neat lawns, all refreshing and spotlessly clean, making one feel great at first sight.

There were fifteen people in their group, arriving in three golf carts.

Everyone headed towards the villa with Bai Xiaosheng and Zhang Yao walking together.

There were more than one path leading here, and several cars were also arriving from the opposite side, dropping off a group of people.

That group was unlike theirs; they were not walking loosely but were surrounding and following someone.

Bai Xiaosheng was chatting with Zhang Yao when suddenly he heard exclamations around him.

"Hey, take a look, isn't that Chen Changluo!"

"...Indeed, it's him!"

"I've always wanted to see Chen Changluo himself!"

"Me too!"

"Then let's go, quickly check it out."

The people around them were not just excited in their voices but also quickened their pace, moving towards him.

Bai Xiaosheng looked up, surprised, and looked over.

Out of the fifteen people on this side, only he and Zhang Yao continued walking normally.

The rest almost broke into a jog, heading straight for the other side.

The twenty or so people across were clustering around a young man.

The man was tall, with a handsome appearance, and his every move was graceful, his face even bore a hint of arrogance.

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at him and felt curious, that person looked a bit like Chen Changqing!

"Wow, impressive! This time we really ran into a celebrity!" exclaimed Zhang Yao, enlightening Bai Xiaosheng, "That guy is called Chen Changluo, he's Mr. Jiuzheng's nephew, and he is quite famous in Anjiang and its neighboring provinces. He's very capable, and his business is ranked first in Anjiang Province in terms of benefits! Of course, that's within the scope of our subsidiary companies."

Mr. Jiuzheng's nephew?

That would mean Chen Changqing's cousin. No wonder they look somewhat similar.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded, and couldn't help but curiously look at Zhang Yao, "I say, Zhang, how come you know everyone? Along the way, you've introduced me to no fewer than seven or eight people, right?"

On the car ride over, Zhang Yao had been pointing out people in other cars and explaining them to Bai Xiaosheng.

He was practically a walking social register.

Zhang Yao chuckled.

"I may not be of much importance, but I have my moments; I'm included in almost every major event. However, I never get much out of these events. Over the years, my pleasure has become remembering names and I've heard a fair share of people's secrets. Do you want me to share them with you?"

No wonder, Bai Xiaosheng glanced at him.

This guy was a perennial onlooker...

Yet, to become a walking social register was a skill of Zhang Yao's that Bai Xiaosheng had to respect.

However, when Zhang Yao offered to tell him other people's secrets, Bai Xiaosheng directly waved his hand, "Let's forget it, I'm not that interested in those gossips."

"And another thing, Zhang," Bai Xiaosheng very seriously said to Zhang Yao, "shouldn't you get some insurance for your family?"

"Why?" asked Zhang Yao, puzzled.

"So that if one day your mouth gets you into trouble and someone silences you, you won't leave your family empty-handed. You've got to leave some living expenses for them," joked Bai Xiaosheng.

On the way over, he had gotten a clear sense of Zhang Yao's personality and knew what kind of jokes Zhang wouldn't take offense at.

As expected, Zhang Yao laughed heartily, "You're quite funny!"

They continued their conversation and laughter.

In the distance, Chen Changluo took notice.

After all, more than thirty people around him had all come over to greet him zealously, offering smiling faces.

In the distance, those two strolling at an unhurried pace, chatting and laughing, naturally caught his attention.

"It turns out to be Zhang Yao, that perennial 'soy sauce' guy. Who's the one with him?"

Chen Changluo glanced over and found Bai Xiaosheng to be quite unfamiliar to him.

However, he didn't regard Bai Xiaosheng highly.

In his view, he was like a star surrounded by the moon, an exalted being, while the kid over there, what was he but a nobody? He didn't even know to fawn over him, let alone have any prospects worth mentioning.

Nothing but a disrespectful ant!

That was Chen Changluo's one-sentence assessment of Bai Xiaosheng.

At the moment, the people around him were exceedingly eager, vying to converse with Chen Changluo. Anyone who managed to speak with him had their face lit up with excitement, as if basking in reflected glory.

Though they were all general managers, Chen Changluo's business was the strongest among the group enterprises within Anjiang Province!

He was also the head of Anjiang's provincial industry and the nephew of East China's regional head!

And so young, his future development was immeasurable!

This one said, "Mr. Chen, after this gathering, please drop by my place and give me some advice on my work!"

That one said, "My company has recently been discussing a new collaboration with Europe. I would like Mr. Chen to oversee it!"

These people treated Chen Changluo like a deity, wishing they could worship him at home. Unable to speak with Chen Jiutian or Mr. Jiuzheng, getting on close terms with Chen Changluo could also bring immense benefits.

Chen Changluo smiled, responding smoothly on both sides, clearly enjoying the flattery.

"Hey, Zhang Yao, Mr. Chen is here, why haven't you come over to greet him yet!"

Someone by Chen Changluo's side spotted Zhang Yao and immediately called out.

Suddenly, the topic surfaced among the crowd, and they began calling out one after another.

"Exactly, hurry over. If Mr. Chen takes care of you even a little, you'll make a fortune!"

"And the one next to you, this here is Mr. Chen Changluo, the top general manager of our Anjiang enterprises! You should come and say hello!"

"A casual word from Mr. Chen, and your enterprise could skyrocket!"

One voice overshadowed the next in these clamoring exhortations.

Bai Xiaosheng could tell the crowd was busily courting Chen Changluo's favor.

What a hard time for them! Bai Xiaosheng remarked to himself.

Even though he didn't want to join them, he had become the excuse for them to praise Chen Changluo.

Looking at Chen Changluo's expression, he seemed to really enjoy it.

"Mr. Chen, hello!" Zhang Yao was very "with it," and immediately shouted out warmly, waving his hand in greeting.

Zhang Yao's ability to play both sides amazed Bai Xiaosheng.

Chen Changluo flashed Zhang Yao a faint smile and then glanced at Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng merely nodded at him lightly.

This gesture made the surrounding general managers instantly buzz with excitement.

"This guy's got some nerve, to only nod at Mr. Chen."

"Who is he? He looks very unfamiliar!"

"Must be a newbie, probably doesn't know how formidable our Mr. Chen is. If he knew, he'd certainly regret his behavior!"

Amid the chatter, Chen Changluo said indifferently, "Alright, everyone, there's no need to concern yourself with the behavior of someone irrelevant. Let's go to the villa and meet my uncle."

Flanked by the crowd, they walked towards the villa.

Chen Changluo gave Bai Xiaosheng a cold and disdainful look as he left.

Zhang Yao, however, was impressed by Bai Xiaosheng, saying, "You've really got guts!"

Bai Xiaosheng merely smiled lightly, watching Chen Changluo's retreating figure and finding it amusing.

"Number one in economic performance among Anjiang's subsidiary companies? That's laughable! Compared to Zhongjing Media, it's just trash!"

Chapter 696: People You Can't Afford to Offend_1

Bai Xiaosheng and Zhang Yao were reluctant to mix with those people and walked leisurely at the back.

Zhang Yao lowered his voice, chuckled to Bai Xiaosheng, and said, "Brother, from now on, we are a CP, how close is that!"

Bai Xiaosheng wasn't an out-of-touch old fogey; he spent a couple of hours each day letting Red Lotus check the latest news and vocabulary to keep up with the times.

He knew that CP stood for couple and originally referred to a husband and wife or a romantic couple in English.

But now, it's been perverted to include same-sex male-male and female-female pairs as well.

"Who's your CP? Please have some self-respect, Zhang! And what do you mean by saying that?" Bai Xiaosheng deliberately moved away from Zhang Yao, gave him a cold look, and asked.

Zhang Yao was initially taken aback by his reaction, then burst into laughter, "Brother Bai, don't be nervous. I, Zhang Yao, am male, like women, and would never entertain the idea of making a move on you, although you do look rather clean and quite handsome..."

"Don't look at me like that, I really didn't mean it that way."

"I was saying, you might have offended Chen Changluo just now! Offend him, and you still think you can do well in Anjiang?" Zhang Yao sneered, "Do well, and you'll end up just like me, a permanent onlooker part of the soy sauce party, always the last to be considered—if ever—for anything. Looking on as others eat meat and drink heartily, never you. Then, a few years later, you'll become like me, becoming notorious. Tell me, by then, wouldn't we be a pair?"

So that was it.

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at Chen Changluo's retreating back and said indifferently, "Just because I didn't show him reverence? Is it that serious?"

"Pretty much! You dared to treat Chen Changluo that way, and in public no less, my admiration for you is literally off the charts," Zhang Yao sighed, "A couple of years back, I also met a friend at a similar

event. He was just like you, indifferent towards Chen Changluo. And what happened to him? While others climbed the ladder year by year, he faced obstacle after obstacle, going from general manager to deputy general manager, until in a fit of anger, he resigned."

As he said that, Zhang Yao patted Bai Xiaosheng's shoulder, "Brother, you seem quite reasonable, so heed my advice. When the banquet starts later, go offer a toast to Chen Changluo, pour generously, and if he casually drinks with you, consider it a public apology and admission of wrong. Don't let him remember you."

"Ask me to toast to him?" Bai Xiaosheng glanced at Zhang Yao, and smiled meaningfully, "I'm afraid that by then, he won't dare to drink!"

Zhang Yao was stunned and looked at Bai Xiaosheng, giving a thumbs up, "I've always thought I was the biggest blowhard here, but meeting you..."

"Damn, I really want to become your disciple!"

At that moment,

Chen Changluo was leading the group, approaching the villa's hall.

The Chen Family servants stopped in their tracks as soon as they saw him, respectfully standing on both sides of the pathway, bowing slightly, and greeting, "Young Master Changluo!"

Chen Changluo smiled and nodded slightly in response.

Those following looked at him with reverence.

The attitude of the servants said it all.

It seemed that Chen Changluo not only visited often but also held a very esteemed position in Chen Jiuzheng's residence.

This group walked into the hall with great fanfare.

The hall was already occupied by over a hundred people, including top executives from subsidiary companies and guests from other third-party enterprises.

As for today's protagonists, those participating in the selection for the heads of the provincial industry sectors had been taken to a separate lounge to rest as soon as they arrived.

Of course, some of them came out to chat with other guests.

Once Chen Changluo arrived, another wave of people flocked to him.

These people recognized him, knowing he was the nephew of Chen Jiutian and Chen Jiuzheng, and a favored figure in the brothers' eyes.

Naturally, they were exceedingly respectful toward him.

Those who were unfamiliar with Chen Changluo suddenly gained understanding after others explained, and they too looked at Chen Changluo with awe.

As Chen Changluo made his greetings around the circle, Bai Xiaosheng and the others just arrived, and due to the commotion, the servant responsible for checking invitations didn't check Bai Xiaosheng's invitation.

Naturally, Bai Xiaosheng wasn't directed to the lounge either.

Bai Xiaosheng watched Chen Changluo being so highly praised and was astonished.

Afterward, he was pulled by Zhang Yao into a small hall where there was a tea break with fruits and cakes.

"This Chen Family is my favorite place to gather because their chefs are simply too good, the pastries are Michelin-level. Now, let them make a fuss, after all, you don't like these things, so just follow me and treat yourself."

Zhang Yao said so.

Bai Xiaosheng also became interested.

The two of them circumvented the noisy crowd, took a detour from the edge of the hall to the small hall, unnoticed by anyone.

Shortly after they left.

Chen Changqing hurried down from the second floor and immediately noticed Chen Changluo surrounded by the crowd.

Chen Changqing's eyelids twitched slightly.

Originally, he could have received more respect than Chen Changluo, but Uncle had assigned him a more important task—to go to Zhongjing Media.

According to the original plan, given time, he certainly could have taken control of Zhongjing Media!

By then, what Anjiang Province's most profitable enterprise, could compare with Zhongjing Media!

Initially, Chen Changqing was full of confidence, but who would have thought that a scourge arrived at Zhongjing Media and thwarted the family's plans completely.

"Bai Xiaosheng, you and this Chen Changluo, are both despicable bastards that I loathe!" Chen Changqing cursed in his heart.

He bypassed those people and headed straight for the door; he needed to instruct the servants to keep watch, and as soon as someone named Bai Xiaosheng arrived, they were to report directly to him.

Chen Jiutian, Chen Jiuzheng, Mu Beichen, these few were all upstairs waiting.

Chen Changqing quietly took a detour, but Chen Changluo in the crowd caught sight of him, watching this cousin who had always been superior to him, now so downcast, dejected, and even a bit pitiful. Chen Changluo felt satisfied in his heart.

When Chen Changqing reached the doorway, he quietly summoned a servant in charge of checking invitations and gave a low command.

The servant even earnestly promised, "Rest assured, Young Master Changqing, I have been keeping watch here all along. The moment he arrives, I will immediately report to you, I definitely won't let you miss your business!"

Unbeknownst to him, the person had already entered.

Chen Changqing nodded with satisfaction, and as he turned around, he heard a resonant voice speaking.

"Oh, isn't that Changqing? What's the matter, seeing your brother here and not even coming to say hello?"

Chen Changqing saw Chen Changluo looking at him, with at least dozens of people staring at him.

Many eyes were playful, some not bothering to hide their sneers.

"Big Brother Changluo." Chen Changqing responded calmly, "Uncle said that when you arrived, he wanted me to take you to him, let's go."

Chen Changluo smiled, turned to the crowd, and said, "Then everyone keep having fun, I'll go upstairs to greet my Uncle and the others, and I'll come down in a moment."

The crowd responded in agreement.

Chen Changqing led Chen Changluo straight up to the second floor.

"Brother, I've heard that you're still holding a deputy position?" Chen Changluo asked with a light laugh.

"Yes, I've encountered a troublesome person." Chen Changqing answered calmly.

"How troublesome? If he's here this time, let brother meet him, I'll help you roll over him." Chen Changluo said with disdain.

All of a sudden, Chen Changqing laughed, giving him a meaningful look.

"You will meet him, and when the time comes, Big Brother Changluo, you better keep your word and help your little brother roll over him!"

Chapter 697 - Stunning Beauty, Two Gorgeous Women_1

While Chen Changluo went upstairs to pay his respects to the elders, Bai Xiaosheng and Zhang Yao tasted all the delicacies, and, prompted by Zhang Yao's reminder, still saved room for the main course.

Afterward, the two men wandered around on the ground floor with a glass of wine in hand.

Speaking of the Chen Family's mansion, it was indeed huge; besides the main hall, there were four smaller halls for resting.

Even with two hundred people inside, it didn't feel crowded.

"With such a big house, wouldn't it be empty and echoey when there's no banquet? At night, you shout in the main hall and it echoes back, wouldn't that be scary?" Bai Xiaosheng said with a laugh.

"Bai, I'm not trying to criticize you, but you're wrong to think that way. Anyone who can afford a mansion this big wouldn't have fewer than ten servants. Besides, you who don't live in a mansion, why worry about the leaders?" Zhang Yao teased.

As the two talked along the way, finding common ground in their temperaments, they gradually started joking without reservation.

"Even for such a large mansion, Mr. Chen owns more than one. Our assistants and drivers who came with us are now gathering in another mansion," Bai Xiaosheng continued.

As Zhang Yao spoke, he looked around the small hall they were in.

Although labeled "small," the hall was anything but, and was decorated in understated luxury.

"When can I ever get my hands on a mansion this big? No, I'd be content with just half of one," Zhang Yao exclaimed.

"Then you better work hard," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

The words of encouragement were completely insincere.

"Even with hard work, I won't be able to afford it!" Zhang Yao grumbled. "I can't even pay the property fee here! Forget it, I don't want to think about it. Hey, Bai, let's go look at the beauties. I saw several top-quality ones earlier, all elegant in their movements. Anyone who can attend a banquet here must be rich. If I could hook up with a wealthy woman, my dreams could come true overnight!"

This guy...

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but want to roll his eyes.

"Hey, look, look, there are two top-quality ones over there!" Zhang Yao suddenly pointed excitedly.

Bai Xiaosheng looked over.

In the opposite small hall, two stunningly beautiful women with tall figures and elegant demeanors were chatting and laughing.

As if by accident, one of the beauties looked over and immediately stopped chatting, giving a smile in their direction.

"Wow, the beauty is looking over here! She smiled!" Zhang Yao said excitedly.

The other beauty also looked over.

"Song Yanran? My God, that's Song Yanran!" Zhang Yao said. "Impressive, she's the famous top-quality beauty who is the general manager in Anjiang Province's subsidiary!"

Zhang Yao didn't forget to enlighten Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng didn't recognize Song Yanran, but he knew the woman with her — Zhao Qianze.

"Unfortunately, Song Yanran is the woman Chen Changluo has his eye on, and we definitely can't covet her or even speak a word to her, or else we'll be in trouble... Wow, that beauty over there is waving at me, did you see it?" As Zhang Yao saw Zhao Qianze waving in their direction, he exclaimed excitedly.

Of course, he saw it.

Bai Xiaosheng saw Zhao Qianze's bright eyes, smiling and waving at him.

"Ah! She's walking over here, could it be, brother, that my spring has arrived, and my mansion is within reach?"

Zhang Yao quickly straightened up, standing upright, and then put on a modest gentleman-like smile.

Bai Xiaosheng stood behind him, watching with an air of helplessness.

Among all the guests present, Zhang Yao's self-love was probably unmatched.

Zhang Yao was so preoccupied with the beauties that he clearly didn't notice Bai Xiaosheng's expression.

In this small hall, more than twenty people seated on the sofas, chatting among themselves or looking at their phones, all looked up when they heard Zhang Yao's outbursts and followed his pointed direction.

Zhao Qianze, accompanied by Song Yanran, walked over leisurely.

The two beauties appeared otherworldly, yet each had her distinctive charm:

One was voluptuous and enchanting, boasting a bosom ripe and swelling, a wasp waist and a lifted behind, with sheer stockings wrapped around straight legs and walking in fine high heels with an elegant gait.

The other was cool and unapproachable, with skin delicate as porcelain and luminous as jade, black hair cascading like a waterfall, moving as if she were a tender willow swaying in the wind.

The people sitting in this small hall are the top executives of various subsidiaries, no strangers to women or to beauties.

Yet, at this moment, everyone's gaze was transfixed, and they couldn't help but exclaim in admiration.

"She truly is a breathtaking beauty, her every frown and smile so enchanting, it's hard to restrain oneself!"

"Yeah, she's so gorgeous. If a woman like that would talk to me even for a moment, I'd be over the moon!"

"I must get to know her later!"

As people eagerly anticipated making their moves, some lowered their voices to sound a warning.

"That aloof goddess over there is Song Yanran, the woman Mr. Chen Changluo has his eyes on. You dare to flirt with her—are you tired of living?"

"I heard at the last big gathering, someone made some lewd comments about Song Yanran, and half a year later, they went from the general manager to just another pedestrian. Don't court trouble!"

Everyone couldn't help but inhale sharply, their surging hormones instantly deflating.

It's said that dying under a peony blossom is romantic even for a ghost, but when it comes to sacrificing one's entire career for a brief encounter, how many would genuinely take the risk.

"I hear the beauty next to Song Yanran is no pushover either!"

"I actually know her, her name is Zhao Qianze! She's the top contender for the regional industry leader, the one Zheng Qinghong has taken a fancy to!"

Instantly, everyone took another sharp breath.

Didn't that mean she was the woman of the future provincial industry leader!

A forbidden fruit not to be touched!

"Look, Zhang Yao is being all flirtatious with her!"

"That guy has always been disreputable; he's going to be unlucky this time!"

"Haha, let's just sit back and enjoy the show."

The crowd murmured in low voices, many reveling in schadenfreude, sneaking glances at Zhang Yao.

Zhang Yao didn't hear them, but Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help frowning.

He actually detested this kind of talk—the idea that certain women were off-limits.

Women are not objects!

I'll have a few words with Song Yanran just to spite him and see if he dies of anger, Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

By this time, Zhao Qianze and her companions had already approached.

Zhao Qianze, with a sweet smile, looked in this direction and said, "When did you get here..."

"Just now, I've just arrived too!" Facing the initiative of a beautiful woman, Zhang Yao was utterly smitten, feeling as if he was floating and couldn't speak smoothly.

"... Bai," Zhao Qianze continued unexpectedly.

After speaking, she gave Zhang Yao an astonished glance, walking past him.

And headed straight for Bai Xiaosheng!

In that instant, Bai Xiaosheng thought he could hear the sound of Zhang Yao's heart shattering.

"I've just arrived," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

"Then why didn't you go to our private reception room to rest? You're still wandering around outside; you had me thinking you hadn't come," Zhao Qianze pouted, unbelievably coquettish.

Zhang Yao was dumbfounded, and so were the people around him.

The beauty's coquettish smile was soul-stirring!

Bai Xiaosheng smiled back, but before he could answer, he felt Song Yanran's gaze on him, subtly hostile.

Huh? Bai Xiaosheng felt intrigued.

Why had he irked her upon their first meeting?

Chapter 698: Looking for Trouble with Him, I'm Afraid You'll Be at a Disadvantage_1

Bai Xiaosheng looked towards Song Yanran and, out of politeness, nodded and smiled at her.

Song Yanran's expression was indifferent as she slightly nodded in return, considering that a greeting.

Zhao Qianze introduced her with a smile, "This is Miss Song Yanran, my good friend, a top beauty plus a well-known manager."

When Zhao Qianze introduced her, she even teased Song Yanran.

It seemed their relationship was pretty close, mused Bai Xiaosheng silently.

He gave Song Yanran a smile and proactively extended his hand, introducing himself, "Hello, I'm Bai Xiaosheng."

Song Yanran looked at the hand Bai Xiaosheng extended, her smile cold. If a slight upward curve of her lips counted as a smile, that is.

She offered her hand, which was as white as jade, but only the tips of her fingers touched Bai Xiaosheng's in a perfunctory shake, fleeting and half-hearted.

Bai Xiaosheng paused, didn't say anything, and calmly withdrew his hand.

She didn't want to have too much contact with him, but he really didn't care.

After all, the women Bai Xiaosheng had seen were as plentiful as flowers, and he hadn't missed any type.

This Miss Song Yanran could only be considered a bit above average; she definitely didn't catch his eye.

Bai Xiaosheng turned to Zhao Qianze and laughed, "So our people have all gone to the special reception room. I was wondering why I didn't see many in this main hall."

There might have been some, but Bai Xiaosheng wouldn't remember what they looked like.

"Do you want to go there now? I can take you," Zhao Qianze said with a smile, offering to show Bai Xiaosheng the way.

The people sitting around had been listening intently since a while back.

Bai Xiaosheng was actually a friend of Zhao Qianze!

And he shook hands with Song Yanran!

The crowd gasped in shock, whispering to each other in mosquito voices, discussing fervently, and memorizing Bai Xiaosheng's face.

Zhang Yao, who was standing nearby, kept following Bai Xiaosheng with a gaze full of shock and amazement, as though he didn't recognize him at all.

"No need, going there won't be much fun. I'll just wander around this hall, waiting for the banquet to start," Bai Xiaosheng said to Zhao Qianze with a smile, politely declining her offer.

"Shall I accompany you here then?" Zhao Qianze asked after thinking it over.

The surroundings suddenly went quiet.

Shocked gazes converged on the two of them.

Zhao Qianze said she would stay here with this guy?

Does Zheng Qinghong know about this?

The onlookers perked up their ears, afraid to miss a word, thinking the next development might be big news.

Zhang Yao's eyes were bulging, and he swallowed nervously.

Song Yanran glanced at the people around her, her eyebrows slightly furrowed, and stealthily tugged at Zhao Qianze.

That gesture was her way of telling her not to do this.

But Zhao Qianze paid it no heed.

"No need. You're the main attraction, where you are, that's where all eyes are. I can't handle that much exposure. Besides, I also have a friend here," Bai Xiaosheng replied with a laugh, declining Zhao Qianze's kindness and casually gestured towards Zhang Yao.

Zhang Yao saw Zhao Qianze looking at him and immediately switched his shocked expression for a smile.

"So it turns out you're Bai's friend; what an honor," Zhao Qianze then offered Zhang Yao a smile and even extended her hand.

Zhang Yao looked a bit flattered as he shook her hand, "Hello, Miss Zhao, I'm Zhang Yao, the general manager of Wanfeng Business Management. It's a pleasure to meet you!"

After greeting Zhang Yao, Zhao Qianze gave Bai Xiaosheng a sweet smile.

"In that case, I'll see you later, enjoy your chat!"

Bai Xiaosheng nodded with a smile.

It was only then that Zhao Qianze and Song Yanran left.

Zhang Yao watched the beauties leave, then leaned in closer to Bai Xiaosheng and lowered his voice, "I say, Bai, you actually know Zhao Qianze, and she even called you 'Bai' in public. What's your relationship with her? And you shook hands with Song Yanran! How was it, was her little hand soft..."

After asking a couple of questions and seeing no response, Zhang Yao turned his head to find Bai Xiaosheng had already walked away towards another exit of the lounge.

"Hey, wait for me." Zhang Yao quickly followed.

Indeed, it was clear that staying in this lounge was no longer an option.

The people around them continually cast furtive glances their way, making anyone uncomfortable.

Bai Xiaosheng planned to visit other lounges and also wanted to take this time to thoroughly explore the Chen Mansion.

Meanwhile, upstairs.

Chen Changluo was reporting his recent achievements to two of his uncles.

Chen Jiutian and Chen Jiuzheng nodded frequently as they listened, their eyes brimming with approval.

"Good, Changluo, you've grown a lot in the past six months and have become a qualified general manager," Chen Jiutian praised.

"But you need to continue to work hard, stay humble, and avoid pride and rashness. In the future, the Chen Family will be looking to your generation!"

"Yes, after a few more years of tempering, once the right opportunity comes, we could certainly consider promoting you further!" Chen Jiuzheng also said with a laugh.

Chen Changluo, being praised by the two most esteemed uncles in the family, his face flushed with pride, promptly replied respectfully, "Yes, I will bear in mind the teachings of both uncles. I will definitely achieve great results and live up to your expectations! I will also strive to temper myself to rise to the challenges of higher positions!"

The uncle and nephews spoke with great joy.

Chen Changqing, however, slightly bowed his head, expressionless.

His demeanor did not go unnoticed by Chen Jiutian.

Chen Jiutian coughed to clear his throat, then raised his voice, "Changqing, you don't need to be discouraged. There's a reason for everything that happened, and you are not to blame. Fortunately, we're close to resolving it. When the time comes, we will help you take over the real power at Zhongjing Media!"

These words from Chen Jiutian failed to cheer up Chen Changqing.

"Hmm," Changqing responded, glancing at his Uncle, Chen Jiuzheng.

Regarding the control of Zhongjing Media, ever since Bai Xiaosheng initiated the establishment of the Supervisorial Oversight Council to check the powers of the deputy general manager and general manager, he had complained multiple times to his uncle, unsure whether his uncle had discussed it with his elder uncle.

He was even more uncertain whether his elder uncle didn't treat it seriously or had some other thoughts.

Regardless, Chen Changqing now felt that seizing the power seemed increasingly impossible.

Not long ago, Bai Xiaosheng seemed to be about to report the new system to the affairs department.

Once the affairs department officially passed the new system, even if Bai left, Changqing wouldn't be able to take all the power.

Chen Changqing wasn't very enthusiastic, somewhat absent-minded.

Seeing him like this, Chen Changluo sneered secretly.

"Brother Changqing, I heard you were defeated by someone named Bai Xiaosheng. I heard he's here, is that true?" Chen Changluo snorted dismissively, "He's just a general manager after all, what could he possibly do to defy us?"

"Elder Uncle, Uncle, you both might hesitate because you fear the repercussions and find it inconvenient to deal with him, but let me do it. I will make sure he submits completely!" Chen Changluo said with absolute confidence.

Over the years, Chen Changluo had been arrogantly unbridled outside, believing that he could do as he pleased in East China, in Anjiang, and within the Group.

Chen Changluo's words were uttered casually, but as soon as he finished, he suddenly felt the atmosphere turn tense.

Not only did Chen Changqing's expression turn strange, but even the two uncles frowned at him.

"Changluo, you should stay away from that Bai Xiaosheng!"

Chen Jiutian advised Chen Changluo earnestly, "It's not that he has any frightening background; it's that this guy is extraordinarily cunning and incredibly insidious!"

"If you mess with him, I'm afraid you'll be at a disadvantage!"

Chapter 699 You're Not Worthy of Her _1

Chen Changluo was stunned and speechless, as this might have been the first time his eldest uncle, Chen Jiutian, had specifically warned him not to provoke a subsidiary general manager in Anjiang, East China, fearing he might be at a disadvantage.

It was utterly bewildering.

With no background, could he be Sun Wukong? Even if he were Sun Wukong, wouldn't he still be controllable under the dual authority of his two uncles?

Chen Changluo was extremely curious.

"In any case, don't ask too many questions. Just remember, this guy is tough meat that can't be steamed soft nor boiled tender, crafty and treacherous like a venomous snake. If you don't put him to death in one fell swoop, he will bite back and leave you in a sorry state of desperate complaint," Chen Jiuzheng advised solemnly.

"Yes, Brother Changluo, that person is not as simple as you think. You don't know the whole story, so it's better not to get involved, lest you come out worse," Chen Changqing said to him with a smile.

Upon hearing Chen Changqing's words, Chen Jiutian and Chen Jiuzheng didn't react much, finding them to be very normal.

Chen Changluo's face turned somewhat unsightly.

After all, just moments ago, he was adamant that he would "crush" the opposition for Chen Changqing.

Yet in no time, Chen Changqing was asking him to admit he dared not act, and right in front of the elders too.

What's more, Chen Changqing had laughed.

This was clearly a form of mockery!

"I understand," Chen Changluo said, nodding expressionlessly, his heart nearly bursting with anger.

Chen Changluo swore to himself, "Today, I really want to see just how tough this nobody with no background is! If Chen Changqing can't deal with him, it doesn't mean I, Chen Changluo, can't!"

Chen Changqing cast a deep look at his cousin.

He knew Chen Changluo's character all too well from their childhood, the more you tried to convince him with words, the more he resisted in his heart.

In a little while, he was likely to cause some commotion.

"My arrogant cousin, you've been too insolent for too long. Someone needs to keep you in check so that you can develop along the right path." Chen Changqing chuckled coldly to himself, "I'm just waiting to see how you provoke this Mr. Bai and how he's going to deal with you!"

Each harbored his own thoughts.

"All right, Changluo, there's still some time before the banquet starts. Don't just stand around here; go downstairs and mingle, build good relationships," Chen Jiutian advised Chen Changluo kindly.

Chen Jiuzheng said something similar.

"Yes," Chen Changluo responded with utmost respect to his two uncles, standing up and saying, "You two rest, I'll head down first."

Chen Jiutian and Chen Jiuzheng nodded, and only then did Chen Changluo turn and leave.

Chen Changqing followed him out.

Once they were gone, Chen Jiutian sighed to Chen Jiuzheng, "To tell the truth, Changluo has been a bit pampered over the years. I actually have more faith in Changqing, but it's a pity Mr. Bai this disaster has descended upon Zhongjing; otherwise, Changqing's progress had been smooth. Given time, he's sure to take charge!"

"Changluo's temperament is a bit lacking, but he has enough ability. Changqing has both the ability and the temperament; it's just that his luck is lacking," Chen Jiuzheng said, then smiled bitterly, "It's unfortunate that neither your children nor mine are up to the mark, not fit for business and not interested in it either. Now, we can only count on the Chang brothers."

With that, his face showed helplessness and regret.

"So, we must make enough money, so that even if our sons and grandsons do nothing and squander it all, they can still lead worry-free lives!"

"Throughout our lives, we've suffered hardships to get to where we are today. Now that we're of this age, how much more can we eat or wear? What we strive for is letting the next generation live as they please and do whatever they desire," Chen Jiutian said, his gaze far-reaching.

Chen Jiutian's words made Chen Jiuzheng nod in agreement.

The Chang brothers left the room without speaking and headed downstairs.

"Brother Changluo, you've heard what our two uncles said. That Mr. Bai is a troublesome mad dog. It's better not to provoke him; otherwise, you might get hurt," Chen Changqing continued to warn kindly.

"Hmph," Chen Changluo snorted coldly and dismissively through his nose.

From then on, the two of them fell silent.

Changqing followed behind, with the corner of his mouth curling into a faint smile.

At this very moment.

Mr. Bai Xiaosheng was holding a glass of wine, pacing around the lower floor.

Zhang Yao wasn't with him.

He had encountered a possible wealthy woman in another salon.

Bai Xiaosheng assessed that the rich woman weighed at least two hundred pounds, with layers of flesh around her neck, and a goose-like laugh when she chuckled.

However, Zhang Yao didn't care and instead moved closer, lavishing praise on her for having good skin and keeping herself well.

His eyes were attracted by the sparkling jewelry on the "goose."

Others look for opportunities to chase after beauty, but Zhang Yao constantly seeks a wealthy wife so he can live worry-free and buy a villa.

After all, although everyone holds the title of general manager, the salary and benefits are very different.

The poor are dirt-poor, and the rich are swimming in wealth.

Everyone has their own aspirations, and Bai Xiaosheng understands.

However, Bai Xiaosheng also left him behind and started to stroll around on his own.

Essentially, the entire first floor is an open area where guests are free to walk around.

Of course, some rooms are not open to the public and are even guarded by servants.

As Bai Xiaosheng approached a room, he heard the faint noise of cats meowing and dogs barking inside, which instantly piqued his interest.

"Are there pets inside?" Bai Xiaosheng asked the servant at the door.

"Yes, young master's dogs, madam's cats, and a few golden parrots," replied the servant.

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes lit up and he smiled, "Then, could I take a look?"

"This?"

The servant apologetically shook his head, smiling, "I'm sorry, sir, but I'm afraid that's not possible."

"It's like this, I love pets. Just crack open the door a bit so I can play with them," Bai Xiaosheng said.

"It's really not possible, sir," the servant firmly refused, "If they escape, I'll have to take responsibility."

Since the servant insisted, Bai Xiaosheng had to give up.

Just as he was about to leave, he heard someone softly calling him from behind.

"Bai Xiaosheng!"

The voice was incomparably sweet, but very unfamiliar.

Turning around in confusion, Bai Xiaosheng saw Song Yanran approaching him.

"Miss Song? Were you just calling me?" Bai Xiaosheng asked, surprised.

"Yes, I have a few words I'd like to say to Mr. Bai. Do you have a moment?" Song Yanran inquired.

Bai Xiaosheng was immediately bewildered.

This was only the second time he had met her, and the first encounter had been somewhat unpleasant.

It seemed as if this woman harbored some kind of prejudice against him, completely unfounded.

What could she possibly have to say to him?

Bai Xiaosheng was curious as well. Smiling, he nodded, "Yes."

"In that case, may we step aside for a talk?" Song Yanran glanced around and spotted a smoking room at the far end, prepared for the banquet guests. It was a small room with a four-seater sofa, featuring glass doors which, when closed, provided decent sound insulation.

Pointing to the area, Song Yanran suggested, "Let's go there."

Bai Xiaosheng looked in that direction and nodded, "Okay."

With that settled, Song Yanran led the way with Bai Xiaosheng following behind, and they made their way there.

Once inside the smoking room, the two sat opposite each other.

"I wonder, Miss Song, what did you want to talk to me about?" Bai Xiaosheng opened the conversation with a smile.

"What is your relationship with Qianze?"

With utmost seriousness, Song Yanran asked this question first thing.

"My relationship with her?" Bai Xiaosheng was taken aback.

Song Yanran frowned as she spoke.

"Don't play dumb with me. Do you like her? Are you pursuing her? Let me tell you, Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, Qianze is destined to marry into wealth; she is not from your world. Do you understand?"

Bai Xiaosheng didn't understand; he hadn't even had time to process why Song Yanran was saying these things to him.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng's bewildered expression, Song Yanran became somewhat angry.

"I'll be blunt. Don't mind if I offend you—but you are simply not worthy of her!"

Chapter 700: This is How I Should Regard You_1

Mr. Bai Xiaosheng stared at Song Yanran, who stood with utmost seriousness and a stern face, and felt—ridiculously amused!

He had no idea how to face this woman with his expression.

"You came all the way here just to tell me, 'I'm not worthy of her'?" Bai Xiaosheng repeated amusedly yet feigned earnestness.

"Exactly, so please stop pestering her!" Song Yanran was very serious.

Bai Xiaosheng simply didn't know what to say, strained his thoughts, and asked with a smile, "What makes you think I'm the one doing the pestering?"

"Or perhaps, is she the one pestering you?!" Song Yanran sneered.

"Why not?" Bai Xiaosheng countered.

"On what basis?"

Song Yanran seemed angered by the young man before her, and barked out these four words with stiffness.

"In terms of talent and appearance, are you a match for Zheng Qinghong? And as for family background, I've heard from Qianze how you mentioned that your family is just a humble household. I have no idea how you became the general manager, maybe the group promoted exceptional talent unusually. But being a general manager doesn't mean you're entitled to enter a certain circle, especially, the circle of the wealthy. Even if your annual salary as a general manager is in the millions, you simply have no right to aspire, do you understand!"

"A toad is always a toad, never dream of eating swan meat!" Song Yanran said fiercely.

Bai Xiaosheng's face gradually turned cold.

"You came here specially to tell me that I'm a toad? Miss Song Yanran!"

Bai Xiaosheng's face turned cold, and although he initially wanted to tease her some more, he now had no interest in doing so.

"Then I'm afraid I cannot entertain you any longer!"

This woman, the moment she arrived, asserted as a fact that he was the toad pestering Zhao Qianze.

This was an outright insult to him.

Even if she was a woman, Bai Xiaosheng had no intention of tolerating her.

"Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, do you know!" Song Yanran exclaimed.

"Qianze and I have been friends for many years, best friends for many years. I know how exceptional she is, how hard-earned her achievements today are!"

"A woman ages and her career won't last long; once she has a child, it's a different life. I cannot stand by and watch her go astray. Zheng Qinghong is her perfect match, the one and only choice! Not you!"

"I'm not afraid to tell you, I don't have many friends, only two to this day, and no one else meets my standards."

"These two friends are also my best friends. One of them married an ordinary person and now has become an insipid woman with whom I have nothing in common anymore. As for the other, I cannot watch her make the same mistake, nor do I want to lose another friend!"

"Have I made myself clear enough, Mr. Bai Xiaosheng!"

Song Yanran said all this in one breath, not pausing for an instant.

"Selfish!"

Two words suddenly drifted out of Bai Xiaosheng's mouth.

"What, what did you say!" Song Yanran's face changed, and she shouted angrily.

"I suggest you see a psychologist." Bai Xiaosheng looked at Song Yanran coldly, "Some people have Oedipus complexes, some have sibling complexes, but this is the first time I've heard of someone having a friend complex, and to such a pathological extent. The problem with your friend does not lie in her changes, but in you. If you continue like this, you will soon lose your only friend too."

"Miss Song, you're seriously ill!" Bai Xiaosheng stood up, "Let's end our conversation here!"

"Stop, are you still going to pester Qianze!" Song Yanran shouted angrily.

She had finally found an opportunity to come talk to Bai, not to listen to him lecture her.

"Let me tell you, I am not pestering Zhao Qianze. It's not within my control that she seeks me out!" Bai Xiaosheng looked down at Song Yanran from a superior position, "Your mind is too cluttered, you simply don't know what happiness is!"

"As for my looks and intellect, it's not your place to comment."

"You might think you're elite, but in my eyes, you're not necessarily esteemed!"

"You regard me as lowly as dirt, but in less than ten years, I shall view you the same way!"

Having said that, Bai Xiaosheng left with a flick of his sleeve.

Song Yanran couldn't stop herself from trembling in anger, biting her lower lip.

That stunningly beautiful face was twisted and deformed.

It was the first time that someone had insulted her like this!

Just now, Mr. Bai Xiaosheng's condescending gaze seemed to be filled with supreme pressure.

At that moment, she actually felt like she was the one who was insignificant.

"Impossible, this must be an illusion, he's just an ignorant commoner spouting exaggerations and empty words!" Song Yanran said fiercely.

The conversation, lasting less than five minutes, ended on an unhappy note.

However, the repercussions were not limited to just the two of them.

When Bai Xiaosheng and Song Yanran entered the smoking room, someone saw them, and it quickly caused an uproar.

"Yanran went into the smoking room with a young man to chat alone?"

Zhao Qianze couldn't believe this news when she heard it.

She knew very well who Song Yanran was.

This was a woman who disciplined herself to the utmost, spending all her time learning aristocratic etiquette, studying foreign languages, mastering various talents, and aspiring to be a grand lady of high society, always mindful of her reputation and seldom interacting with men.

Especially with Chen Changluo present.

"I can't let Chen Changluo find out, I need to hurry over and see for myself," Zhao Qianze thought out of concern for her best friend and quickly rushed over.

Then, on her way there, she unexpectedly saw the figure of Chen Changluo.

At that moment, Chen Changluo's face was grim as he headed in the same direction.

"Does he already know?" Zhao Qianze startled.

That was quick!

She didn't know that Chen Changluo had just come downstairs when he heard the gossip about the incident.

By chance, those discussing it were among the people who had seen Bai Xiaosheng and Song Yanran heading toward the smoking room.

Upon hearing it, Chen Changluo was instantly furious and charged over.

A swarm of people followed him, but he immediately stopped them.

Having such a crowd proceeding together, as if to capture a criminal, was awkward for him.

Actually, Song Yanran chatting with a man wasn't a problem in itself, but the issue lay in the words "privately."

No good comes from secrecy!

Chen Changluo was a man with strong male chauvinism and an extremely powerful possessive desire.

He allowed himself the freedom to flirt, but he absolutely could not tolerate the woman he was interested in privately chatting with another man.

He and Song Yanran were an example of how sometimes fate plays a joke by matching two people with psychological issues together.

At that moment, Chen Changluo was ahead, with Zhao Qianze trailing far behind; they had just arrived when they saw a young man stepping out, followed closely by Song Yanran, who had an angry expression and was loudly saying something.

"Who is that kid!" Chen Changluo couldn't contain his anger.

"Bai Xiaosheng!" Zhao Qianze, however, wore a look of disbelief before her expression changed.

"I told her so much about Bai Xiaosheng's good points, maybe I said too much! I forgot about Yanran's character. Just now, she talked to me a lot about how Bai Xiaosheng wasn't right for me!" Zhao Qianze was taken aback.

"She wouldn't have gone to confront Bai Xiaosheng, would she! Has this woman gone mad!"

Zhao Qianze's face was filled with horror.